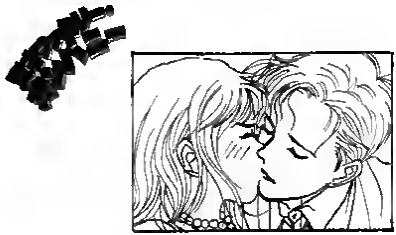
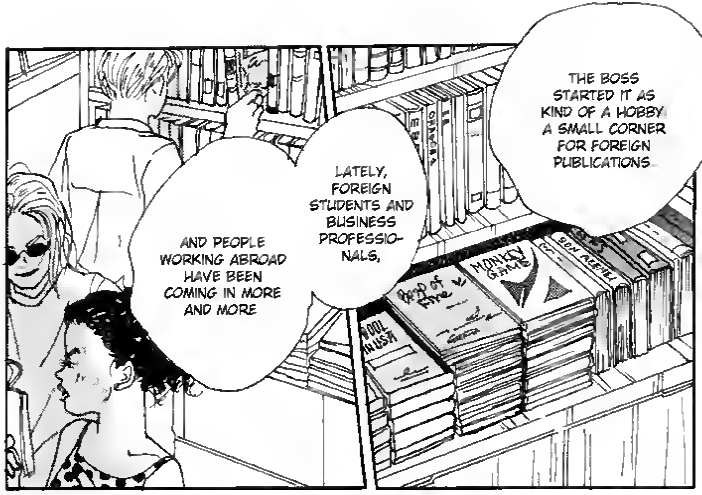
the 28th round

OUR BOOK-STORE IS THE EXCLUSIVE TENANT FROM THE FIRST BASEMENT FLOOR TO THE SECOND FLOOR OF THIS BUILDING
B1
THE BASEMENT FLOOR IS COMICS
SEIHOUDOU BUILDING



THE FIRST FLOOR IS ORDINARY BOOKS AND PAPERBACKS
A LARGE PART IS MAGAZINES
AND THEN,
THERE'S THE SECOND FLOOR!
WE ARE HIRING A PART-TIMER FOR THIS FLOOR.
EH...
SEIHŌDŌ

THIS FLOOR SPECIALIZES IN FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS!
WOAH...
WE DIRECTLY IMPORT BOOKS AND MAGAZINES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD AND SELL THEM HERE.
IT'S HUGE.
YOU COULD CALL IT THE "TOWER RECORDS" OF BOOKS


THE BOSS STARTED IT AS KIND OF A HOBBY A SMALL CORNER FOR FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS
LATELY, FOREIGN STUDENTS AND BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS,
AND PEOPLE WORKING ABROAD HAVE BEEN COMING IN MORE AND MORE
SOMETHING
MONKEY GAME
MIDNIGHT

I SEE.
What there's less of is hairs on my head
WE HAVE MORE BOOKS AND MORE WORK, BUT NO ONE SPEAKS ENGLISH

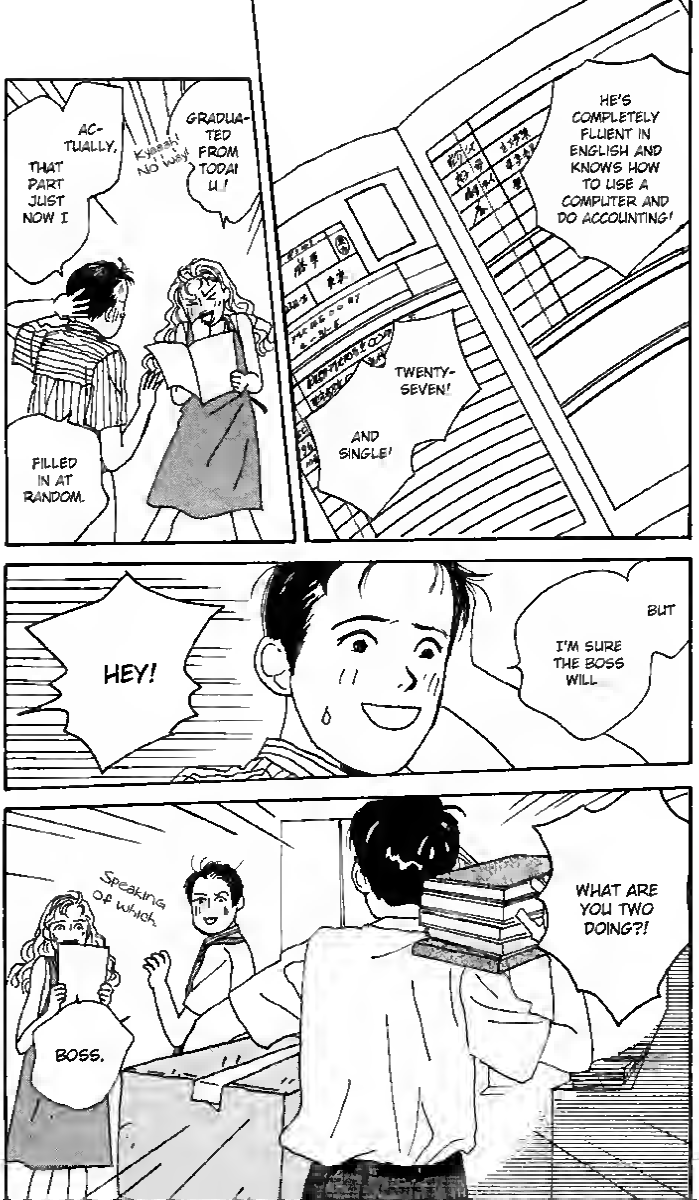
Lessee... where's the boss?
AH!
MR. KAKITA!
THAT'S WHY THEY'RE LOOKING FOR A PART-TIMER WHO SPEAKS ENGLISH

THIS GUY HAS BEEN...
EHH?!
YOU CAME AT THE RIGHT TIME.
ハンセイ
HAS BEEN FOLLOWING ME AROUND SPOUTING GIBBERISH!
EH!
ENGLISH! DAMN!
ハッ
Well you call me a person who understands English?
Please! Listen to me...
NANA, WHERE'S THE BOSS?!
IS HE AROUND SOMEWHERE?!
THE BOSS IS OFF AT FUJI SOBA HAVING LUNCH...

Excuse me, sir.
WHAT DO THESE PEOPLE THINK THEY ARE DOING!?
Oh...!
Yes, please
Can I help you?
ズィ
ズィ
EH?
Do you have an easy guidebook of Kabuki in English?
I'd like to watch a "Kabuki".

EH?!
DO WE HAVE A KABUKI GUIDEBOOK?
AN EASY ONE IN ENGLISH?
Let me see..
Just a moment, please.
AH!
OVER ON THE RIGHT NEXT TO THE REGISTER.
THERE'S A TON OF JAPANESE CULTURE AND TOURIST GUIDEBOOKS THERE!
For foreigners
OK!
I'll show you the way, please.
Oh yeah!
Thank you!

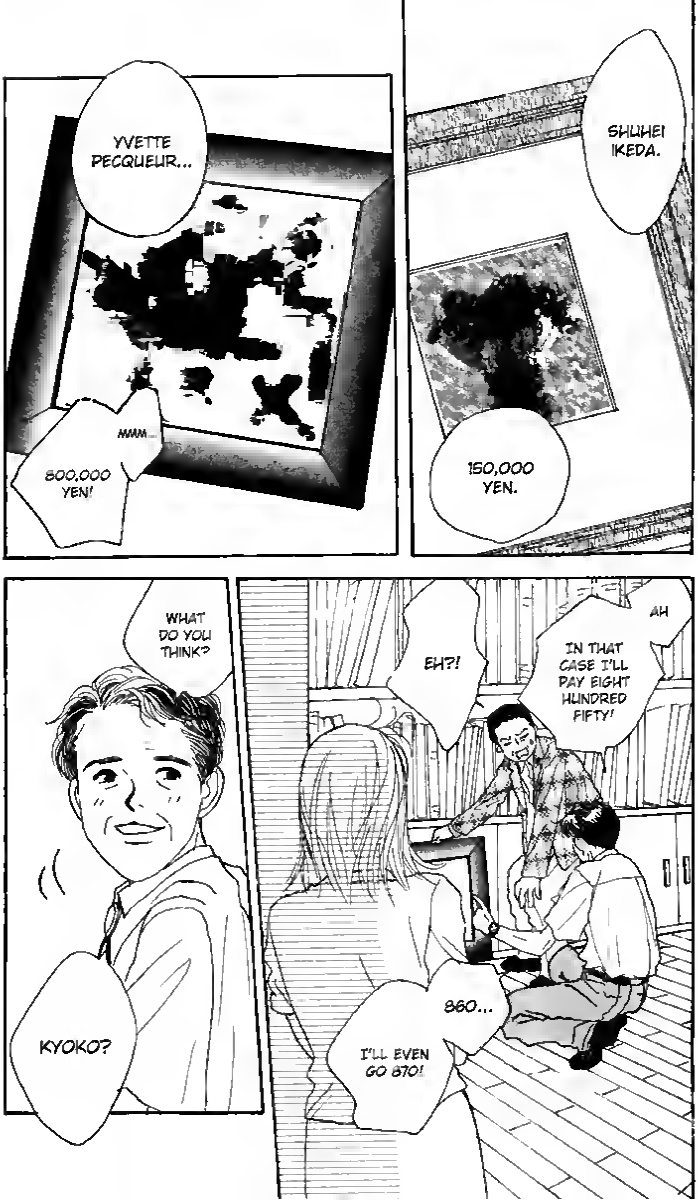
Goodness this is a big help
Are those people really employees?
Maybe.
So fluent!
AMA-ZING!
W-W-WOW!
BOSS, WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!
THAT GUY!
WELL,
HE APPLIED FOR OUR PART-TIME POSITION...
HE SUBMITTED A RATHER RANDOM AND PROFUSE APPLICATION,
SO I THOUGHT MAYBE
HE WAS KIND OF FISHY...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
YOU'VE GOT TO HIRE HIM! HIRE HIM!

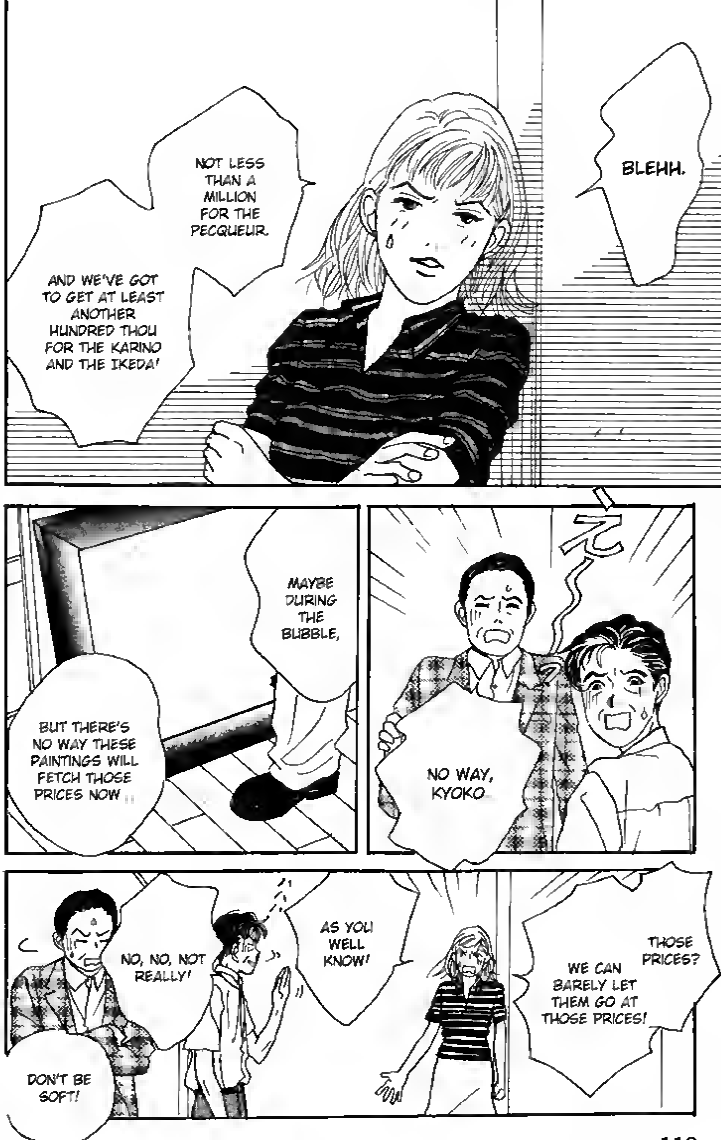

HE'S COMPLETELY FLUENT IN ENGLISH AND KNOWS HOW TO USE A COMPUTER AND DO ACCOUNTING!
TWENTY-SEVEN!
AND SINGLE!
GRADUATED FROM TODAI U.!
Kyaaah! No way!
ACTUALLY, THAT PART JUST NOW I FILLED IN AT RANDOM.
BUT I'M SURE THE BOSS WILL
HEY!
WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING?!
Speaking of which,
BOSS.

You're welcome
This looks like it will be a great book
Thank you so much
KABUKI
Have a good trip
THAT WAS A SURPRISE.
I HAD NO IDEA THERE WAS A PLACE LIKE THIS HERE.
Ohhh Laroque
and the autobiography of Michael O Zeegelar
I wish I could get these
AH THERE HE IS!
MR. NATSUKI!

IT'S TIME FOR YOUR INTERVIEW!
This way, this way.
THE BOSS IS HERE
EH...
THE "BOSS" IS...
HURRY, HURRY.

カリーン
YOSHIAKI KARINO.
320,000 YEN.
PAPA NAGASAWA?!


YVETTE PECQUEUR...
MMM...
800,000 YEN!
SHUHEI IKEDA.
150,000 YEN.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
KYOKO?
EH?!
AH
IN THAT CASE I'LL PAY EIGHT HUNDRED FIFTY!
860...
I'LL EVEN GO 870!


BLEHH.
NOT LESS THAN A MILLION FOR THE PECQUEUR.
AND WE'VE GOT TO GET AT LEAST ANOTHER HUNDRED THOU FOR THE KARINO AND THE IKEDA!
MAYBE DURING THE BUBBLE,
BUT THERE'S NO WAY THESE PAINTINGS WILL FETCH THOSE PRICES NOW...
NO WAY, KYOKO...
THOSE PRICES?
WE CAN BARELY LET THEM GO AT THOSE PRICES!
AS YOU WELL KNOW!
NO, NO, NOT REALLY!
DON'T BE SOFT!

A HEAVY LOSS.
I FINALLY MANAGED TO SELL A THREE MILLION YEN PAINTING FOR SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND.
one fifth the original price
RIGHT NOW AT MY GALLERY WE'VE KNOCKED OUR PRICES DOWN TO A THIRD OF WHAT THEY WERE, AND WE STILL CAN'T SELL ANYTHING.
THIS IS NOT A HANGOUT FOR MOPING ABOUT THE ART GALLERY BUSINESS!
COME ON!
WE'VE BEEN HAD
SHEESH
NO.
THEN I'LL TAKE THIS FOR EIGHT HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND.
AH.
IF YOU'VE FINISHED, GET OUT OF HERE!
I'M PAYING EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTY.

I TOLD YOU I WON'T SELL IT FOR LESS THAN A MILLION..
EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTY IS FINE.
EH?!
WE HAVEN'T BEEN MOVING MANY PAINTINGS HERE EITHER.
AKIO.
I'VE BEEN THINKING WE SHOULD LOWER OUR PRICES.

HUH?!
A LOT OF OUR CUSTOMERS PREFER JAPANESE ARTISTS LIKE G. KAWANO AND KARO KARASAWA.
FOR MODERN ART LIKE PECQUEUR,
HMMM. THAT'S OUR AKIO.
HE KNOWS, HE KNOWS
EHHH
EH?
PLEASE HAVE A LOOK AT SOME OF OUR OTHER PECQUEUR AND MODERN ART SELECTIONS.
IF YOU LIKE,
THEY ARE ITEMS MY FATHER BOUGHT IN PARIS LONG AGO.
YOU HAVE MORE PECQUEUR?
おぉ～ん

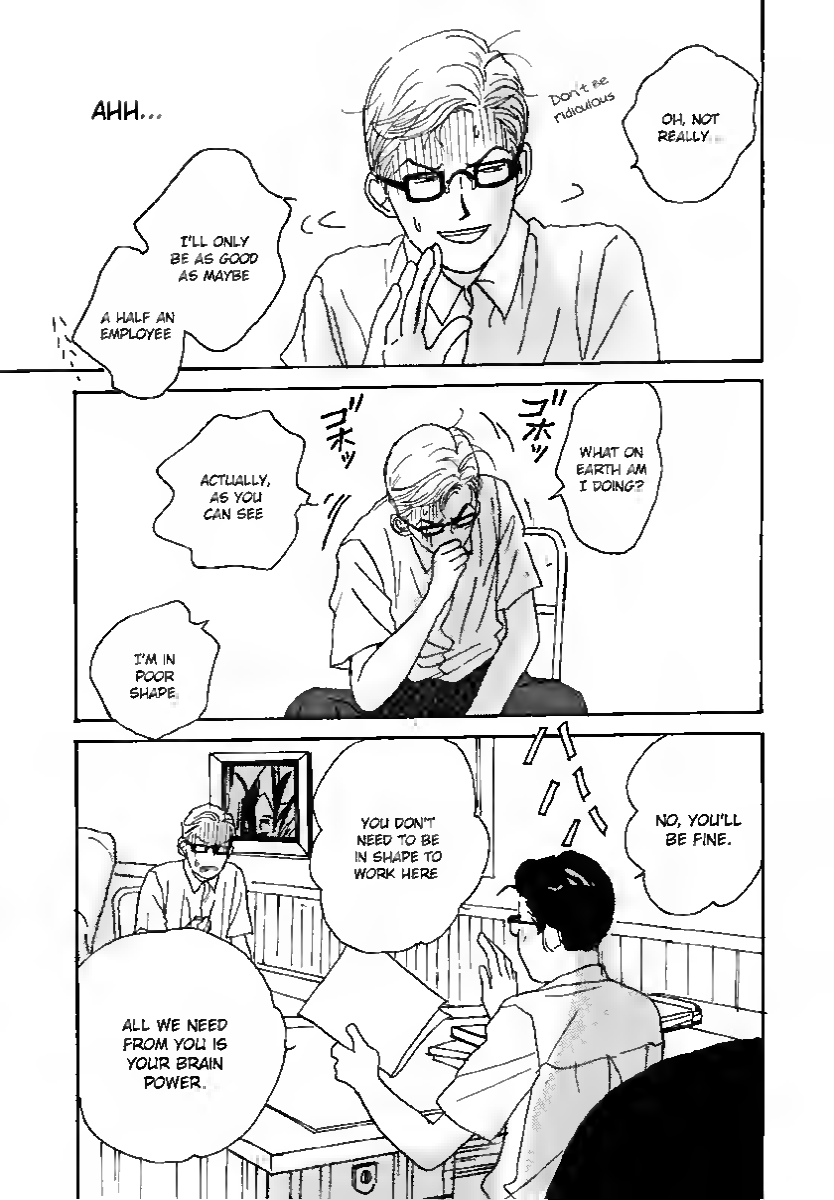
I DON'T BELIEVE IT.
NO WAY!
YOU REALLY SOLD THOSE PAINTINGS FOR THESE PRICES...
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN, UNCLE!?
WHY ARE YOU SUDDENLY SELLING THEM LIKE THAT!?

WE AREN'T ART COLLECTORS.
IF THERE'S A PAINTING WE CAN SELL, WE NEED TO SELL IT. WE HAVE TO REDUCE OUR INVENTORY A BIT.
THE RED INK JUST KEEPS GETTING WORSE.
IT'S LIKE THOSE MEN SAID.
THERE'S HARDLY ANYONE WHO WILL BUY HIGH-PRICED ART ANY MORE
IF WE'RE GOING TO LET THOSE IDIOTS WHO CAN'T SELL ANYTHING HAVE SUCH GOOD PRICES,
BUT.. JUST SO!
WE CAN'T BE RANDOMLY PULLING OUT AND SELLING OUR MOST CHERISHED PIECES!

BUT LISTEN,
IT'S NOT LIKE...I LIKE RANDOMLY SELLING THEM.
はぁ
TO THE EXTENT WE CAN,
WE HAVE TO CLEAR OUT EVERY PAINTING HERE
I'M SORRY I HAVEN'T BEEN FORTHCOMING WITH YOU
BUT I THINK THE TIME HAS COME TO TELL YOU.
EH?!

OPERATING IN GINZA SINCE 1950,
"GALLERY NAGASAWA" WILL...
えぇ!
IT CAN'T!

PASSED THE ENGLISH AND TRANSLATION TESTS
ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ACCOUNTING AND COMPUTER KNOWLEDGE...
OHH!
AND YOU CAN EVEN SPEED READ...
THAT'S QUITE IMPRESSIVE...
THAT'S LIKE THREE EMPLOYEES IN ONE PART-TIMER


AHH...
Don't be ridiculous
OH, NOT REALLY...
I'LL ONLY BE AS GOOD AS MAYBE A HALF AN EMPLOYEE
ゴボッ
ゴボッ
WHAT ON EARTH AM I DOING?
ACTUALLY, AS YOU CAN SEE I'M IN POOR SHAPE
NO, YOU'LL BE FINE.
YOU DON'T NEED TO BE IN SHAPE TO WORK HERE
ALL WE NEED FROM YOU IS YOUR BRAIN POWER.

AND I HEARD FROM THE STORE MANAGER JUST NOW...
WHILE I WAS OUT YOU ALREADY DID SOME WORK FOR US!?
WELL, MORE THAN ADMIRATION.
I WAS DEEPLY MOVED!
THAT SUCH A TALENTED YOUNG MAN AS YOU WOULD COME TO WORK PART-TIME FOR US...
NO GOOD...
IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S TAKING A LIKING TO ME.
WHEN HE REALIZES I'M THE SAME GUY HE PUNCHED EARLIER
WHAT WILL HE DO?
WILL HE PUNCH ME AGAIN?
NO, BUT MORE IMPORTANT,

AS A TWENTY-SEVEN YEAR OLD PART-TIMER WITH A WEAK CONSTITUTION AND A WEIRD HAIRDO!?
IF HE HIRES ME NOW...
WILL HE REMEMBER ME, KATSUYUKI NATSUKI,
UMM.
I'D HATE THAT WORSE THE GETTING HIT!

PRESI-
DENT...
EH?!
NATSUKI!
YES?
OVER
HERE!
OVER
HERE!
AHHH
THERE
YOU ARE!
THIS.
HERE'S YOUR
APRON!

ANYWAY, PUT ON THIS APRON AND NAMEPLATE
SORRY FOR THE SHORT NOTICE.
えっ
IF YOU HAVE TIME, WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO HELP US OUT RIGHT NOW?
AND GO OUT ON TO THE FLOOR.
I'VE GOT SOME BUSINESS OUTSIDE THE OFFICE.
EHHH?!
I'LL BE BACK THIS EVENING.
JUST...!
JUST A MINUTE!
I HAVEN'T...

the 28th round✖おわり